

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-04-00

January 19, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you seek a formal interpretation of the provisions of Chapter 34 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

**Question:** In an existing building undergoing a renovation and a change of occupancy from Use Group R-2 to Use Group R-3: Is there a requirement to replace existing windows that do not comply with the current code for emergency egress and rescue with those that meet the requirement for emergency egress and rescue even though the building received a passing score utilizing Section 3408 Compliance Alternatives?

**Answer:** Yes. Section 3408.6.11 states that “in applying this section, the means of egress are required to conform to Sections....1010.0....” Section 1010.4 requires at least one operable window or exterior door approved for emergency escape and rescue to be provided in every sleeping room below the fourth story in occupancies in Use Group R. Although a passing score for the Section 3408 Compliance Alternatives relieves one from many specific code requirements, the requirement for emergency egress and rescue windows found in Section 1010.4 is not one of them.